REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on March 21, 2003. Claims 1 - 9 are currently pending in the application. Applicant amends claims 1, 4 and 7. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 9, lines 5 – 9 of Applicant's specification.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,943,044 to Martinelli et al. Applicant amends claims 1, 4 and 7 to further clarify the nature of his invention, and respectfully traverses this rejection.

Martinelli discloses a force sensing semiconductive touchpad including pan control region 28 that controls a rate of panning in response to a variable amount of pressure that may be applied to pan control region 28 (see, e.g., column 8, lines 26 – 36 of Martinelli).

In independent claims 1, 4 and 7, Applicant discloses a medium, method and apparatus for moving an object displayed on a monitor by means of a pressure-sensitive controller, the method comprising the steps of sensing a pushing pressure by pressure-sensitive means in the controller, determining a pressure-sensitive output signal to be output by the controller, and moving the object in accordance with the magnitude of the output signal, where the magnitude of the output signal indicates a highest pushing pressure exerted on said pressure-sensitive means during a current operating cycle of said pressure-sensitive means.

Unlike Applicant's claimed invention, Martinelli fails to disclose or suggest a method and apparatus for selecting an output signal as a function of a highest pushing pressure exerted during an operating cycle of a pressure-sensitive means. Rather, Martinelli suggests generating a control signal based on a current and varying control signal (see, e.g., column 8, lines 33 – 36 of Martinelli). In addition, Martinelli fails to discloses Applicant's application of the present invention for controlling a graphical character to execute a three-dimensional jump in a video

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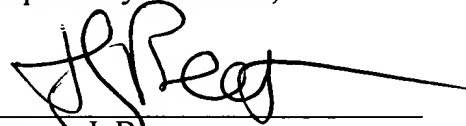game. Rather, Martinelli is limited to controlling basic scrolling and panning operations on a touch screen

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 4, and 7 are not made obvious by Martinelli, and are therefore allowable. As claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 each depend from one of allowable claims 1, 4, and 7, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are also allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 - 9, consisting of independent claims 1, 4, and 7, and the claims dependent therefrom, is in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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